



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 5, 2017

There are several safety/security issues that I'd like to address before you begin reading the bulleted "New News" and highlighted, updated information in "Worth Reminding".

First, NO ONE from any federal agency will ask you for money. Additionally, there are some unscrupulous individuals claiming to be from federal agencies OR that they can expedite your paperwork. There is absolutely NO ONE who can make the process speed up in any way. If you're approached by such individuals, please take a photo of their face and the license plate of their vehicle and contact law enforcement.

Secondly, if you use a generator, REMEMBER that it must be placed outside – not in a room or in the garage. We have already had several calls for carbon monoxide poisoning due to inappropriate use. Your appliances must be directly plugged into the generator – not through a power outlet in the house.

We've been through enough already. Let's not be victimized by individuals or situations for which we have some degree of control.

New News:

1. Major debris pickup for City and County residents began today with concentration on public right of ways, i.e., clearing streets. This is ongoing and will ramp up to 60 vehicles. Don't forget to separate building materials and yard waste and leave them in your yard or driveway, not in the street. Yard debris will be processed through a chipper.
2. Aerial mosquito spraying starts on Thursday. Airborne assets will serve Aransas, Nueces and San Patricio Counties.
3. Emergency Veterinary Service. Care for injured animals is available through Texas A&M at the Animal Control Center on Airport Road.
4. The deadline for SBA loans is October 24. See bullet #7 for more information.
5. ACISD. There is no set time for school resuming. Over 200 individuals were on campuses today and another 200 are expected tomorrow to assess the situation and undertake clean-up and rebuilding. Please check the ACISD web site. Be aware that there will be changes to daily attendance times and the calendar year

Worth Reminding:

1. Garbage. Trash runs are being made DAILY and we've expanded services. Continue to put your household refuse in your blue and green bins. **Do not block the bins with debris or vehicles as the automated trucks are unable to access many bins on their rounds.** Make separate piles for building debris, trees/limbs AND appliances. If you're missing a bin, you may pick one up at the former Service Center, which is located at Laurel and Gagnon. Place them close to the curb or on your property – not the street. The **Transfer Station** will operate 7 days a week from 7 am – 6 pm for an indefinite period. **Residents should enter via Prairie Street and Commercial contractors through Airport St.**
2. Warnings and Protection. If you have been staying in Rockport, it's very important to get a tetanus shot. They are FREE at the **Lamar Volunteer Fire Department**, County Jail, Code 3 Urgent/Emergency Care at Pearl and Enterprise, and the Urgent Care Center on 35. If you're cleaning up building debris or rain-soaked areas, be sure to wear gloves, thick shoes and a mask. For those whose homes have been compromised, there is **a chance of mold** becoming an issue due to the high humidity. We are working on getting truckloads of Damp Rid delivered to the community.
3. Electricity. If your home has been badly damaged, please turn off the main circuit breaker to your house. We need to minimize the possibility of arcs and surges when power returns on September 8. We will have fire teams and AEP specialists available should fires break out. Also, if you are using a power generator plus household items directly into the generator, do not tie into house power. **Please turn off your air conditioning systems and any appliances, lamps, coffee pots, clocks and other items that may be plugged in. We need to de-energize homes when power resumes to minimize potential damage.**
4. Water. The WATER BOIL ADVISORY is still in place. Leaks in the water system have been located and we're in the process of fixing them before our water supplier resumes pressurized service. Daily pressurizing is taking place from 8 am – 5 pm. Although there is water coming out of the faucet, it **SHOULD NOT** be used for bathroom purposes or pouring things down the drain. The system is being overloaded in its testing capacity and we're having to bring generators in to power some lift stations to avert a sewage overflow problem as the wastewater treatment plant is not fully operational. **Once the power has resumed, you should continue to boil all consumable water for another 72 hours.** Bathing, cooking and washing will be fine.
5. Debris Removal. There is a large contingent of volunteers that will undertake removal. They will begin in two places – (1) south of Market and (2) north of Henderson. They will continue outward. Once they have reached the end of City limits, they will move inward from the two sites.
6. Goods Pickup. Ice, water and MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) are being distributed daily from 8 am – 6 pm at Fat's in Lamar, old HEB parking lot and Castaways. Numerous churches also have necessities for residents in need and some good Samaritans are setting up throughout the city.
7. Government Assistance. Staff from the **Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)** will work next week out of Corpus Christi City Hall, 1201 Leopard Street, from Tuesday, September 5 through

Friday, September 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to meet with the public and answer their questions about insurance matters related to Hurricane Harvey. They will be located on the first floor in the alcove facing Leopard Street. On Saturday, September 9, they will be at the La Retama Central Library, 805 Comanche, in the library's conference room from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. TWIA (Texas Windstorm) has set up a mobile claims center at GSM Insurors at 1102 Laurel Street in Rockport and the Lindale Recreation Center, located at 3133 Swantner Street in Corpus Christi. The Small Business Administration will be setting up in the Women's Club building next to Veteran's Park, near downtown by the harbor, and **processing loans for individuals, as well as businesses**. FEMA is already set up at the park so this will make it convenient for everyone.

8. Contractors. All out-of-area contractors will be required to register at the Rockport Service Center. They will be vetted and given a special "City authorized" tag for their car. While this may be an inconvenience for them, it is a way to ensure that residents are getting work done by individuals/customers who are aware of our building codes and the regulations associated with TWIA certified roofing.
9. 911. We are receiving an inordinate amount of non-emergency calls on our system. Wellness checks and relative location requests should be directed to the Red Cross.
10. Save the Tree? Some folks are unsure if their trees can be saved. The Texas A&M Forestry Service will be available to answer questions and look at your property. Informational handouts are being developed and will be available through the Rockport Service Center, Public Safety Center, Chamber and *The Pilot*. This is being coordinated through the Nueces Extension Office. 361-767-5250. There is a fact sheet available on line to help you make a determination – <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/afterthestorm/canmytreebesaved/>
11. Rebuilding. If you have suffered significant damage and are rebuilding, you will need to obtain a building permit. You may use this link: <https://rockport.seamlessdocs.com/f/CQcce> or go to the City's Web site and click on Building Department under the Departments tab. We will be posting more information about post flood requirements in the next few days.
12. City Hall and Operations. Just a reminder that while City offices are closed due to damages, there are a great number of employees working behind the scenes. This includes members of our Public Works, Parks, Police and Public Safety Staff. And, a "satellite" City Hall has been in operation in Bastrop since last August 25 to answer calls, relay information to us in the Emergency Operations Center, and coordinate communication on our web site and with social media pages.

It's getting better every day!!